

## 2014 Residential Rates

High Park Fire Recovery  
and Flood Updates



September flooding on North College Avenue



Poudre River flooding at Shields Street bridge

### Summary: Flood of 2013

In September, residents witnessed flooding that has not been seen in more than 30 years. Rain started on September 9 and did not stop until September 16, creating flooding on the Poudre River and many of its foothills tributaries. The Poudre River peaked around 10,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) at College Avenue, which is equivalent to a 50-year storm.

The disaster across the Front Range and Eastern Plains communities was widespread with nine confirmed deaths and up to \$1.5 billion in damage. Properties in Fort Collins experienced less than \$1.5 million in damage—substantially less than our neighbors throughout Larimer County, Loveland and Estes Park.

The Stormwater Utility has worked diligently since 1983 to purchase floodplain lands for open space and natural areas along the Poudre River, and to create proactive planning measures to protect new development and redevelopment. These actions and others allowed our area to weather the storms with relatively minor damage in comparison—a testimony that proactive flood mitigation saves lives and prevents damage.

Storms—and the floods they create—will return to our community, and it is our hope to carry the lessons from 2013 forward, and continue to help Fort Collins remain a safe place to live, work and visit.

#### Contact

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2012 High Park Fire in foothills west of Fort Collins

## 2014 Rates – Electric, Water, Wastewater and Stormwater

Fort Collins Utilities regularly reviews its rates and makes adjustments to reflect the costs of providing electric, water, wastewater and stormwater services. City Council approves rates by ordinance, and bills printed on or after January 1 reflect the new rates.

We realize rate increases impact our customers and work diligently to manage costs. To help lower utility bills, we offer a variety of conservation, efficiency and rebate programs. Learn more at [fcgov.com/conserves](http://fcgov.com/conserves) or call 970-212-2900.

### Changes for 2014 Residential Rates

**Electric rates** will increase 1.6 percent, primarily due to generation costs and local renewable energy projects.

**Water rates** will increase 9 percent for single-family residents and will be used for infrastructure improvements, as well as ongoing operation and maintenance costs. Water rates will decrease for multi-family (-16.4 percent) and duplex (-1.8 percent) customers, who typically irrigate less than single-family customers. A cost of service study was conducted in 2013 and is reflected in the approved rates.

One quarter of the overall water rate increase is associated with expenses from the High Park Fire. The new pre-sedimentation basin located north of the mouth of the Poudre Canyon is an example of how rate dollars are used to ensure water quality.

**Wastewater rates** will increase 7.5 percent for single-family residents. This rate contributes to infrastructure improvements, such as the recent renovation of the Mulberry Water Reclamation Facility, as well as ongoing operation and maintenance costs. Wastewater rates will increase 4.2 percent for multi-family customers and decrease 5.6 percent for duplex customers based on the 2013 cost of service study.

**NOTE:** *Wastewater charges are based on the average water consumption billed during January, February and March (winter quarter average/WQA). These months represent the amount of water that ends up in the wastewater system. By conserving water, residents can reduce their WQA and pay less for wastewater year-round.*

**Stormwater rates** will not increase in 2014.

In summary, a typical single-family customer's monthly utility bill will increase less than \$7 per month in the summer and less than \$6 per month the rest of the year. For more information, visit [fcgov.com/residential-rates](http://fcgov.com/residential-rates), try our online calculator at [fcgov.com/residential-electric-rates](http://fcgov.com/residential-electric-rates) or call 970-212-2900.

**Commercial rates** vary from residential rates. Customers are encouraged to contact an account representative, 970-212-2900, or visit [fcgov.com/commercial-rates](http://fcgov.com/commercial-rates) to learn more about specific increases and impacts, as well as programs and services to save money.

## Where We Are Now: High Park Fire Recovery (HPFR)

Utilities continues to collaborate with Larimer County and the City of Greeley on High Park Fire recovery efforts to decrease fire-related impacts, including flash flooding, mud/debris slides and impacts to water quality. With the completion of mulching and tree felling, Utilities' HPFR Team is now focusing on structural measures to improve long-term risks within the Poudre River watershed (the land that drains into our waterways).

The team identified Lewstone Creek, located in Bellvue on Filter Plant Road and West County Road 54E, as the top priority for immediate repairs. This area has been impacted heavily by post-wildfire erosion that increased rainwater runoff and exposed water supply pipelines that serve our community.

Other priority areas are being evaluated to identify restoration and mitigation opportunities. This work will ensure the watershed is protected and enhanced as efforts to restore water quality continue.